

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 13-15, 19-20 in the reply filed on 1-6-2011 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 2, 7-11, 17-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1-6-2011.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 13-15, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 13-15 are rejected because it is unclear where the substrate is positioned in regard to the phrase "comprising a substrate for supporting the plurality of single cells". It is also unclear what is meant by the phrase "the electrolyte of each single cell being disposed on the substrate and separated by a predetermined space from adjacent electrolytes" because the electrolyte is already being supported on the substrate because of the phrases "comprising a substrate for supporting the plurality of single cells" and "single cells each having an electrolyte, an anode and a cathode".

Also, it is unclear what is meant by the phrase "the electrolyte ...and separated by a predetermined space from adjacent electrolytes" because the electrolyte is already separated from the next electrolyte because the electrolyte is between the anode and the cathode.

Claims 15 and 20 are rejected because it is unclear what is meant by "plate-like shape". It is unclear if the shape is a plate shape or not.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuchima et al. (5,786,105).

Matsuchima et al. teaches a solid oxide fuel cell which includes a substrate having therein a plurality of gas supply passages and a plurality of gas return passages. A solid electrolyte is formed on a first surface of the substrate, an electrode is formed on the solid electrolyte and an interconnector is formed on a second surface of the substrate.

5. Claims 13, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanaka et al. (JP 2002-329506, abstract).

Yamanaka et al. teaches a cell plate for a fuel cell where a plurality of single cells are formed in the same cell plate by laminating first electrode layers (2), solid electrolyte layers (3) and second electrode layers (4) so as to cover a plurality of openings formed on a substrate (1). The single cells inside the same cell plate are serially connected by

sequentially electrically connecting a first electrode layer (2) to the second electrode layer (4) of an adjacent single cell.

6. Claims 13-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshikata et al. (7,517,601).

Yoshikata et al. teaches in column 2, lines 6-14, that the fuel cell comprises at least one single cell having an electrolyte, a fuel cell electrode and an air electrode wherein the fuel cell is provided with a substrate that supports the single cell, the electrolyte is disposed on one surface of the substrate, and the fuel cell electrode and the air electrode disposed on one surface of the substrate sandwiching the electrolyte in between them. Yoshikata et al. teaches in column 2, lines 64-67, that a plurality of single cells disposed on the substrate can also be connected by interconnectors. Yoshikata et al. teaches in column 3, lines 63-67, that the electrolyte, the fuel electrode and the air electrode are formed by a printing method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Laura S. Weiner/ whose telephone number is 571-272-1294. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H (6:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Laura S Weiner/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1726

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